hee seekes my life, his reason well *I* know;
I oft deliuerd from his forfeytures
many that haue at times made mone to me,
therefore he hates me.

Sal. I am sure the Duke will neuer grant
this forfaiture to hold.

An. The Duke cannot denie the course of law:
for the commoditie that strangers haue
vvith vs in Venice, if it be denyed,
will much impeach the iustice of the state,
since that the trade and profit of the citty
consisteth of all Nations. Therefore goe,
these griefes and losses haue so bated me
that *I* shall hardly spare a pound of flesh
to morrow, to my bloody Creditor.
Well *Iaylor* on, pray God *Bassanio* come
to see me pay his debt, and then *I* care not. *Exeunt.*

Enter *Portia, Nerrissa, Lorenzo, Iessica*, and a man of *Portias.*

Lor. Maddam, although I speake it in your presence,
you haue a noble and a true conceite
of god-like amitie, which appeares most strongly
in bearing thus the absence of your Lord.
But if you knew to whom you show this honour,
how true a gentleman you send releefe,
how deere a louer of my Lord your husband,
I know you would be prouder of the worke
then customarie bountie can enforce you.

Por. I neuer did repent for doeing good,
nor shall not now: for in companions
that doe conuerse and wast the time together,
vvhose soules doe beare an egall yoke of loue,
there must be needes a like proportion
of lyniaments, of manners, and of spirit;
vvhich makes me thinke that this *Anthonio*
beeing the bosome louer of my Lord,
must needes be like my Lord. If it be so,

how

How little is the cost I haue bestow
in purchasing the semblance of m
From out the state of hellish cruel
This comes too neere the praising
Therefore no more of it: heere ot
Lorenso I commit into your hands
The husbandry and mannage of
Vntill my Lords returne: for mi
I haue toward heauen breath'd a
To liue in prayer and contemplat
Onely attended by *Nerrissa* heere
Vntill her husband and my Lords
There is a Monastry two miles of
And there we will abide. I doe de
not to denie this imposition,
the which my loue and some nece
now layes vpon you.

Lorenſ. Madame, with all my h
I shall obey you in all faire comm

Por. My people doe already k
And will acknowledge you and
in place of Lord *Bassanio* and my
So far you well till we shall meete

Lor. Faire thoughts and happy

Iessi. *I* wish your Ladiship all

Por. I thank you for your wis
to wish it back on you: far you w
Now *Balthaser*, as I haue euer fo
So let me find thee still: take this
and vse thou all th'indeuour of a
In speede to Mantua, see thou re
into my cosin hands Doctor *Bel*
And looke what notes and garm
bring them *I* pray thee with imag
vnto the Traiect, to the commo
vvhich trades to Venice; vvast
but get thee gone, I shall be there

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22296) LONDON, 1600 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C